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Also, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate how Wu reduces backlash, as one-way operation is expressly taught. Further, it is respectfully requested that Examiner Butler identify how threading hollow adjustment screw member 7 eliminates space between screw member 7 and a friction collar and between a friction collar and a housing. Further, it is respectfully requested that Examiner Butler identify which components in Wu correspond to the end cap and holder recited in claim 19. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 17 and 19 based upon Wu has been overcome. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that Examiner Butler identify what structure in De La Fuente corresponds to the piston recited in claim 1. Further, elements 50 of De La Fuente are described as "a wavy spring 50 to resiliently bias the ball retainer assembly 24". It is respectfully submitted that "resiliently bias" the antithesis of backlash reduction contrary to the contention of the Examiner as relative motion in the axial direction is specifically allowed by wavy spring 50. Likewise, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner identify what components in Figure 10 correspond to the end cap, the friction collar, and the housing recited in claims 1 and 17 and how separation plate 78c reduces relative motion and/or eliminates any space therebetween in a manner as recited in claims 1 and/or 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims based upon De La Fuente has been overcome for this separate and independent reason.

It is respectfully submitted that clamping sleeve 3 of Fortmann corresponds to the recited friction collar. Based upon that assumption, how does spring retaining ring 17 reduce motion in the axial direction of clamping sleeve 3 as recited in claim 1, and as it is clearly spaced from clamping sleeve 3, how does spring retaining ring 17 eliminate any space between spring retaining ring 17 and clamping sleeve 3 as recited in claim 17. If clamping sleeve 3 of Fortmann is not considered to correspond to the friction collar recited in claims 1 and 17, it is respectfully requested that Examiner Butler identify what components in Fortmann correspond to friction collar and how spring retaining ring 17 reduces relative motion of such component and/or eliminates space with the spring retaining ring 17. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the

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rejection of the claims based upon Fortmann has been overcome for this separate and independent reason.

*Interview
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OK
here
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In summary, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner Butler has merely indicated that the prior art "reduces backlash" without any consideration of the actual teachings or what would be suggested by the prior art. It was the belief of the undersigned that Examiner Butler agreed in the personal interview of October 18, 2004 that each of the rejections had been overcome but could not indicate that the application was in condition for allowance until after a further, updated search was performed. If any obstacles exist to the allowance of this application, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted by telephone.

The Examiner has indicated consideration of the United States patents cited by applicant. By the lack of application of these references and others like them within the classes or subclasses searched, the Examiner apparently recognizes the clear patentability of the present invention over any of these references.

Therefore, since the claims of the present application have been shown to include limitations directed to the features of applicant's motion control apparatus with backlash reduction which is neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in any of the references cited by the Examiner and by the applicant, whether those references are taken singly or in any combination, the Examiner is requested to allow claims 1-21 of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin B. Weiss



Dated: October 25, 2004.

Alan D. Kamrath, Reg. No. 28,227
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)
900 Second Avenue South
Suite 820 International Centre
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: (612) 392-7306
Fax: (612) 349-6556